

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 842

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to honor the Clarksville Foundry upon the occasion of its 160th anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pride in recognizing those estimable businesses in Tennessee that have served their customers for generations by establishing a tradition of quality service, a genuine concern for their patrons, and a commitment to their community; and

WHEREAS, the Clarksville Foundry is one such noteworthy institution, family owned and operated for the last century, which will be celebrating its 160th anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, one of the oldest operating foundries in America, it was leased by Thomas Bledsoe "T.B." Foust from Red River Furnace Company in 1912, renamed Clarksville Foundry & Machine Works, and remains in the Foust family to this day; and

WHEREAS, former chemist and superintendant of Red River, T.B. Foust established what would become a lasting family legacy and a leader in metallurgical manufacturing; and

WHEREAS, his sons, George T. Foust, Charles E. Foust, Sr., and Tom Foust, Jr., joined the company in the 1930s and inherited leadership of the company when their father passed away in the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, in 1977 Charles Foust, Sr. began his tenure as president of Clarksville Foundry, while his son, Charles, Jr., completed studies in mechanical engineering at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating at the top of his class, Charles, Jr. joined the family business and soon launched programs to modernize processes, upgrade equipment, and expand their market; and

WHEREAS, Charles Foust, Jr. ascended to the post of vice president in 1980 and, just one year later, assumed the presidency, focusing on technology upgrades and shifts in product emphasis; and

WHEREAS, by the end of the decade, he had greatly improved the Foundry's efficiency by centralizing operations at a single site and constructing a new main office; as a result of these changes, the old location would become the current site of the Clarksville Police Department; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his acumen and astute professionalism, Mr. Foust was named the Tennessee Small Business Person of the Year in 1994 by the U. S. Small Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, with its small but efficient team of twenty-two employees, the Clarksville Foundry has managed to attract and retain major clients, such as Ingersoll-Rand, parent company of Clarksville's largest private employer; Southern States, producer of electrical switch gear; and various construction companies in need of manhole covers; and

WHEREAS, recently the family business received the honorable commission to manufacture iron castings for the United States Capitol Dome and Treasury Building in Washington, D.C., proving just how essential this company and its industry are to the preservation of this great Nation; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the dedicated leadership of its founders, the loyalty of its skilled and experienced employees, and its commitment to fulfilling every customer's need, the Clarksville Foundry remains one of the longest operating foundries in the country and is wholly deserving of this General Assembly's recognition and approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the Foust family and the employees of the Clarksville Foundry for their enduring service to the community, congratulate them upon the

Foundry's 160th anniversary and its 100th anniversary under the Foust family's leadership, and extend to them our best wishes for many more years of continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.